

Las Vegas FIRENEWS

1998 IABC-Las Vegas **BRONZE QUILL** Award-Winning Newsletter

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FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL PARK DEDICATED TO FALLEN HEROES

by Maureen Pezzullo

The city of Las Vegas dedicated its new **FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL PARK** on the evening of September 10, 2002. Located at Redwood and Oakey Boulevard, the park and monument are dedicated to all the local, county, state and federal firefighters of southern Nevada who lost their lives in the line of duty. During the dedication, the "**Fallen Firefighters Monument**" sculpted by Las Vegas Fire & Rescue firefighter and artist **JOHN BANKS** was unveiled.

LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCILMAN MICHAEL J. McDONALD initiated the construction of Firefighters Memorial Park in the fall of 2001. After the events of September 11, 2001, **COUNCILMAN McDONALD** and the entire **CITY COUNCIL** were determined to honor firefighters, both from the local area and across the nation. Working with the city of Las Vegas departments of Recreation and Public Works, John Banks created the "**Symbol of a Fallen Firefighter.**" The 20-foot tall bronze and granite statue is located on the northwest corner of the park.

John Banks says he drew his inspiration from years of firefighting experience: "**Twenty-three years as a firefighter and a lifetime of artistic experience helped to create this sculpture. The inspiration came from the recognized symbol of the fallen soldier. The soldier's rifle is shoved into the ground and his helmet is cradled on the top of the rifle stock. A pick head ax and a fire helmet are two of the most recognized items in the fire service. The connection was simple. The ax with a fire helmet on it pays a similar tribute.**"

The plaques surrounding the statue contain the names of fallen firefighters, relevant poems, prayers and historical background. There are 12 fire and rescue entities in southern Nevada that are represented on the memorial. The memorial will also pay tribute to the 343 firefighters of the New York City Fire Department who lost their lives at the World Trade Center.

Representatives from all the local fire departments, government officials and John Banks attended the dedication and memorial service. During the ceremony, the bell was rung as each fallen firefighter's name was read and their families recognized. The **Sweet Adelines**, a choir of 135 members, sang patriotic songs while a video presentation remembering September 11th was shown on a large screen. The memorial service concluded with a beautiful candlelight vigil.

During the tribute, a special miniature replica of the monument was presented to **COUNCILMAN McDONALD** by **CAPTAIN DEAN FLETCHER** on behalf of **LVFR LOCAL 1285** in appreciation for his support of the park.

The names of the fallen firefighters of **LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE**



Firefighters Memorial Park Art.

that are represented at the memorial include **HAROLD U. DAVENPORT** (1955) who lost his life while trying to rescue a cat from a utility pole, **BILLIE COMBS** (1986) who lost his life while battling a building fire in the northwest part of the city and **CHRISTOPHER HASSELFELD** (1983) who died in medical helicopter crash.

The monument represents fallen firefighters of:

BOULDER CITY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CLARK COUNTY
HENDERSON
LAS VEGAS
MESQUITE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE
NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY
NEVADA TEST SITE
NORTH LAS VEGAS
U.S. FOREST SERVICE

COUNCILMAN McDONALD is organizing a special **FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**. Representatives from all the fire departments of southern Nevada, as well as other interested individuals, will form a committee that will review nominations for inclusion onto the monument and plans for conducting an annual tribute.

All, who could not be there on September 10th, are encouraged to visit the park in memory of all fallen firefighters.

Message from Chief David L. Washington

I would like to once again thank each and every member of our staff for your contribution to our success since I was appointed fire chief. I certainly realize that we have made some tremendous accomplishments and for that reason I will point out a number of them:

- Realigned our Table of Organization and assigned new responsibilities within the deputy chiefs' rank.
- Successful groundbreakings for Fire Stations #43, #44 and #45. Initiated construction for rescue bay additions at Stations #2, #7 and #9.
- On April 9 and 10, 2002, city of Las Vegas hosted a two-day Department of Justice Terrorism Threat and Risk Assessment.
- Appointment of staff to Metro's Community Based Homeland Security Team.
- Staff received training from the Department of Justice Risk Assessment course for the evaluation of vulnerability to terrorist attack.
- Completed 12 C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Training) programs certifying 260 participants in the community.
- A total of 75 emergency and support staff positions were appointed in the FY-2003 budget.
- Forty-three firefighters received their Firefighter II certifications.
- Reinstated Haz-Mat and Training Inner Look Committees.



David L. Washington

- Updated Fire & Rescue's SOPs to reflect the city's current safety policies.
- Completed Technical Rescue Team training, put apparatus and personnel in service.
- We added four new fire engines and one new air resource vehicle.

We have embarked upon many new initiatives, such as rewriting our **MISSION STATEMENT** and for the first time, adding a **VISION STATEMENT** to our strategic plan while revising the entire plan. Also, we established a slogan which is "Striving for a Safer Community."

Other New Initiatives: We began information sharing meetings for supervisors to share budget and major projects information. Implemented roundtable discussion format; kicked off Service Link; implemented an electronic storage and retrieval system for all department policies and updated the review and revision schedule for SOP's.

Community Projects: Hosted several "open houses" at Fire Stations; attended several hundred specially requested community events.

Technology: Replace all MDTs by December 2002, purchasing and delivery of Pen Based EMS nearly complete.

As we move into the second year under my leadership, on behalf of the E-staff, we would like to salute those of you who continue to believe in us, while challenging us to work even harder as we go about conducting business that will be in the best interest of our citizens. As we look to the future, I trust that our revised strategic plan will be a guide to assist us in moving forward and attaining even greater goals. Finally, on behalf of us all, I thank and

welcome home those members who went off to serve in our Armed Forces over the past year.

David Washington, Fire Chief



FIRE DEPARTMENT EXHIBITS LAST DELIVERY OF NEW FLEET

by Tim Szymanski

Over the past two years, the city of Las Vegas has taken delivery of an entire fleet of new fire apparatus that replaced an aging fleet the department used for several years. The new fleet consists of the latest and finest fire equipment available on the market. Also at the exhibit was one of the oldest trucks ever used by the department. The trucks were on display at City Hall during the lunch-hour break of the City Council.

The new fleet consists of 28 units: 19 fire engines, five ladder trucks, one hazardous material response unit, one heavy rescue unit, one air and light resource unit and one 3,500 gallon water tanker truck. The same company, **PIERCE MANUFACTURING** of Appleton, Wisconsin, made all

the trucks. Total cost of the new trucks was nearly \$11 million and was funded by the **FIRE SAFETY INITIATIVE** passed by city voters in 2000.

The trucks are unique in that all of them are basically the same. Previously, the department used four different brands of fire trucks making it difficult to keep spare parts on hand and operators had to learn how to operate all four brands. Now every truck is identical, equipment is placed in the exact same place on each rig and the fire maintenance shop can keep spare parts on hand that can be used by any of the trucks.

Some of the new trucks are unique. Two are 100-foot aerial ladder trucks, which have a driver on the front and back of the truck. The

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Mayor: Oscar B. Goodman

City Council: Gary Reese (Mayor Pro Tem) • Michael J. McDonald • Larry Brown

• Lynette Boggs McDonald • Lawrence Weekly • Michael Mack •

City Manager: Doug Selby

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

Fire Chief: David Washington

Deputy Fire Chiefs: Ken Riddle • Jeffrey Morgan • Richard Gracia • Greg Gammon



Fire Chief David L. Washington, along with City Manager Doug Selby, presents Richie Clyne with a plaque of appreciation for refurbishing the department's first truck, a 1917 Model T pumper.

Last Delivery of New Fleet...

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"tiller ladder truck" is actually easier to operate in tight spaces such as downtown traffic.

Another new truck is a 3,500-gallon stainless steel water tanker. This new addition will be stationed in the northwest part of the city where fire hydrants are scarce or absent. The water tanker will also carry 500 gallons of "compressed air foam" one of the newest foams now being used in the fire service.

One of two other new trucks is a hazardous materials response unit which carries equipment, including computers and weather monitoring equipment, for hazardous material incidents including biological and chemical agents. A new heavy-duty rescue truck was also placed into service, which is used by a newly created Technical Rescue Team (TRT). The TRT responds to difficult rescue incidents such as people trapped underground or in high places such as the Stratosphere or Red Rock Canyon. Both trucks can carry up to eight personnel safely inside the cab.

Also at the showing was one of the "oldest" fire trucks used by the city, a model "T" which was completely refurbished by **RICHIE CLYNE** of the **IMPERIAL HOUSE ANTIQUE AUTO MUSEUM**. The truck will be used by the fire department at a number of future events such as open houses and other public gatherings. The truck is part of a program in which the fire department is attempting to collect and preserve historical items and information about the department.



The new LVFR Water Tanker and the newly refurbished "Model T" on display at City Hall.

PORTRAITS OF FIRE CHIEFS UNVEILED AT FIRE HEADQUARTERS

On November 19, 2002, portraits of the present and past fire chiefs of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue were unveiled in a simple ceremony at fire headquarters. The portraits are part of a program in which the department is attempting to preserve the history of the department for future generations. A number of other history related events are planned for the future.

Portraits of the following fire chiefs were unveiled:

HAROLD CASE (FIRST CHIEF)

ELMER GATES

C.D. WILLIAMS

JERRY MILLER

SAM COOPER

CLELL WEST

MARIO TREVIÑO

DAVID L. WASHINGTON (PRESENT CHIEF)



Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald, Fire Chief David Washington, former Fire Chief Clell West and Councilman Michael Mack at the unveiling ceremony.

FORMER FIRE CHIEF CLELL WEST attended the event with Chief Washington in the lobby of fire headquarters at 8:45 a.m. Also on hand were **COUNCILWOMAN LYNETTE BOGGS MCDONALD** and **COUNCILMAN MICHAEL MACK**.

Another history event included the showing of one of the department's first fire units in a ceremony at City Hall on December 4 (*Please see featured article*).

Also a history book of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue is being compiled and is scheduled for distribution in November of 2003. Advance sales of the book, which will be filled with numerous photos of the department (past & present) are being gathered.

BUDGET NEWS

by Roy Lawson

We started the new Fiscal Year 2003 budget on July 1st with a substantial increase from last year's budget allocation. Our General Fund budget (Administration, Operations/Training, Fire Prevention and Support



Roy Lawson,
"The Budget Guy"

Services) increased from \$58.4 million to \$66.6 million. This increase was largely due to the 70 positions approved along with their related equipment, supplies and services compliments of the Fire Safety Initiative. These positions are: 11 captains; 30 paramedics; 10 engineers; 9 firefighters (all for Fire Stations 43, 44 and 45); 3 battalion chiefs; 2 fire prevention inspectors; a public education officer; a medical assistant (upgraded from part-time); an information systems coordinator; a fire systems analyst; and a fire equipment mechanic.

Our Communications Center budget also increased from \$5.4 million to \$5.8 million. The center's operating budget is shared with the Clark County and North Las Vegas Fire Departments. The funding formula is based on the number of calls generated from each entity in the previous calendar year. This year, the city of Las Vegas pays 42.33%, Clark County 48.75%, and North Las Vegas 8.92%. The Communications Center was also approved for two additional communications specialists and two additional electrical technicians.

Regarding the Capital Improvement Projects (items over \$25,000), we received the following approved funding:

Diesel Exhaust System	\$70,000
Paramedic Pen Based System	500,000
Training Center Perimeter Fence	207,000
Fire Station #10	350,000 *
Station 6 Improvements	54,000
Station 8 Improvements	85,200
Station 5 Replacement	4,200,000
AVL System Replacement	900,000 (shared with NLV)
Voice/Station CAD Upgrade	234,500 (shared with CC/NLV)
Replace 9-1-1 Telephone System	200,000 (shared with CC/NLV)
Fault Tolerance/Backup Testing	176,355 (shared with CC/NLV)
CAD System Modifications	175,000 (shared with CC/NLV)
First In Alerting System	406,440 (shared with CC/NLV)
Fire Station #43	2,249,684 *
Fire Station #44	2,249,684 *
Fire Station #45	2,419,981 *
Station #2 Rescue Bay Addition	168,043 *
Station #7 Rescue Bay Addition	168,043 *
Station #9 Rescue Bay Addition	168,042 *
	\$14,981,972

(* projected cost in this fiscal year—does not represent total cost)

In our apparatus budget, we were approved for \$1,466,000 to replace staff vehicles, rescue units and to pursue replacing our mobile command unit. Please keep in mind that all our truck and engine companies will be replaced through the Fire Safety Initiative (all trucks every 10 years and

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SEPTEMBER 19TH WMD DRILL PREPARES RESPONDERS

by Tim McAndrew, Emergency Manager

The city's multi-year domestic preparedness training program through the **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE** concluded on September 19, 2001, with a full-scale chemical weapon simulation during a simulated political rally. The scenario involved the dispersal of the nerve agent **VX** through simple misting devices that had been pre-staged by a fictitious extremist group. The mock attack yielded an excess of 300 casualties that overburdened the EMS and hospital systems and required the use of the **UNIFIED COMMAND SYSTEM** to gain control of the incident and its many responders.

The exercise, conducted at the **CASHMAN CENTER** on **B PLATOON**, was the result of a six-month planning project led by **ASSISTANT CHIEF CAMPBELL** serving as the **exercise design team director**. The **Design Team** was a 40-member committee with representatives of all local area government jurisdictions including **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FIRE and POLICE DEPARTMENTS, the FBI, the BOMB SQUAD, all area HOSPITALS, the HEALTH AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, the CORONER'S OFFICE and the AMERICAN RED CROSS**. The design team's mission was to plan a comprehensive training evolution that adequately assessed the following five major objectives:

1. Exercise scene control and management capabilities to include implementation of the **UNIFIED INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM**.
2. Assess the community's multi-agency, multi-discipline communication capabilities in an environment characterized by communication overload.
3. Exercise on-scene **MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI)** operations to include decontamination, triage, treatment, transport and consideration of casualty collection points.
4. Assess the adequacy of local plans for the flow of public information during a **WMD** scenario and the interface with, and use of media resources. Provide timely information through a **Joint Information Center (JIC)**.
5. Exercise the ability of local medical facilities to establish and operate decontamination stations at their location(s) for patients that self-transport from the scene.

Planning an exercise of this size and complexity was an enormous task. There were exhaustive lists of legal and logistical considerations. Creating a realistic scenario in an artificial environment was a tough

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISASTER DRILL.

LAS VEGAS HOSTS GIANT WMD DRILL

by Tim Szymanski

On September 19th, one of the largest drills ever held in southern Nevada took place at Cashman Center, which involved nearly 400 emergency response personnel and over 300 volunteer victims. The drill was the conclusion of a disaster preparedness program, which began two years ago.

The drill was the conclusion of a program funded by the United States Department of Justice. After the Oklahoma City federal building bombing in 1995, funding was made available through the National Domestic Preparedness Program for the 120 most populated cities in the United States. Las Vegas received funding in 2000.

A number of classes and two large tabletop exercises were held, which were part of the program. One tabletop simulated a chemical terrorist attack at Las Vegas City Hall in 2001 and the second exercise was of a biological release in a mall within the city last March. The final exercise was the exercise at Cashman Field.

Dubbed "Acme Auditorium" for the drill, a political rally was being held inside the convention center when a nerve agent was released during the rally. Over 200 participants acted as victims for the exercise, which started at 9:15 AM. A total of a 3rd-Alarm response was sent to the drill, which included Clark County, Boulder City, Henderson and North Las Vegas fire departments. Along with the fire departments, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, FBI, Clark County Coroner's Office, Clark County Health District, Nellis Air Force Base, Clark County School District, Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority, American Medical Response, Southwest Ambulance, American Red Cross and UNLV participated in the exercise.

It was also the first time that every hospital in the valley also participated in an exercise. In addition to the victims at Cashman Center that were transported by ambulance and school bus to the various hospitals, victims were also pre-deployed in the parking lot at the various hospitals to simulate victims that either drove or were driven to the hospitals before the ambulances.

The local media also participated in the drill by providing extensive coverage before, during and after the exercise. One station also had a reporter that volunteered as a victim and produced a special story for the evening news

about what it was like to be a victim.

The city also activated its joint information center (JIC) during the exercise. The JIC is made up of PIOs of every city department and outside agencies which compiles information from a number of sources and disseminates official information from a single source through media releases, the city's television station, on the city's emergency website (lvalert.com) and on the city's emergency telephone information line (38ALERT). After the exercise was completed, a press conference was held in the City Council Chambers, the official emergency press conference site for the city.

LVFR Emergency Management Coordinator **TIMOTHY McANDREW** has spent countless hours on this project to make it a reality. Working with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Clark County Emergency Planning Committee, the various hospitals and health district and other



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISASTER DRILL.

agencies was a huge undertaking. The outcome was a successful event.

The final results of the drill will not be known for a few months as evaluators collected surveys from a number of areas and from all the people that participated. Once that is done, a comprehensive report about the exercise will be complete.

Everyone that participated indicated that a number of lessons were learned and everyone agreed that more drills of this nature are needed to fine tune areas that need to be improved.

Thanks to all the responders that participated and to those who assisted to make the drill possible!!!

WMD Drill Prepares Responders...

Continued from Page Four

job with inherent obstacles. Assigning a sufficient number of resources to the drill while maintaining timely response services to actual emergencies was a balancing act. And ensuring safety on the drill ground for all participating crews, volunteer actors and observers was paramount.

The exercise was designed to deliberately overwhelm the first-in crews, and they were. **RESCUE-10** arrived on scene and was met by a flood of more than 150 volunteer actors evacuating the **CASHMAN EXHIBIT HALL** after the simulated attack. Another 150 actors were sporadically pre-staged at each of the area hospitals to simulate casualties that might self-transport following a terrorist incident.

BATTALION CHIEF HORTT was the first arriving chief officer and established incident command. Managing three-alarms of fire apparatus in addition to private ambulances, buses and an excess of 100 law enforcement personnel was a daunting challenge. An unknown hazardous material environment and looming threat of secondary devices

complicated matters even further. Mass decontamination and using buses as alternate transportation mediums were out of the norm. Regrettably, this was a scenario not unrealistic in our world today.

Participants and evaluators each observed things that went very well...other things not so well. However, that is why we train. The true challenge of the exercise is to install improvements to those areas of our systems that need modernization. A preliminary after-action summary outlining seven fundamental improvement needs has already been presented to the city's **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS** and is available for review on the Fire Depot file name: "**Prelim AAR Sept19 Exercise.**"

A comprehensive **after-action report** is to be provided by the **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE** in three to six months. Kudos to all the participants of the September 19th exercise. A lot was learned and your enthusiasm is appreciated. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and continue to improve our systems—and we will.

ASST. CHIEF MIKE MEYERS NAMED CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Deputy City Manager Steve Houchens, Chief Myers, City Manager Doug Selby, Deputy City Manager Betsy Fretwell and Chief Washington.

It came as a huge surprise to **ASSISTANT CHIEF MIKE MYERS** when arriving at the July 31st Management Staff Meeting expecting to receive his Assistant Chief badge from **CHIEF MORGAN**, that he was greeted by a host of city staff. **CITY MANAGER DOUG SELBY**, **DEPUTY**

CITY MANAGERS BETSY FRETWELL and **STEVE HOUCHENS**, as well as **HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR CLAUDETTE ENUS**, arrived to announce that he has been chosen as the **CITY OF LAS VEGAS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**.

CHIEF MYERS, who was named **CITY OF LAS VEGAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH** in March 2002, for his leadership skills and work on the **MMRS (METROPOLITAN MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM)** was among 12 **CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH** finalists in the running for this prestigious award.



The Mayor congratulates Chief Myers.

MAYOR OSCAR B. GOODMAN was on hand to congratulate **CHIEF MYERS** on his accomplishments and spoke

about the excellent quality of service he and his family have received at the hands of **LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE** personnel. On two occasions LVFR personnel have been called upon by the mayor, once to extinguish a major fire in his backyard and most recently to a vehicle accident involving his wife and him on U.S. 95. The mayor spoke of how impressed he was with the professionalism of responding personnel and thanked the department for its dedication to the citizens of Las Vegas.

Chief Myers received a check for \$500 from the city and was formally recognized at the City Council Meeting of August 7th. Congratulations Chief Myers for a job well done and for bringing such honor to this department!

Budget News...

Continued from Page Four

all engines every 7 years).

The growth of our operating budgets continues to prosper thanks to our support from Finance, city officials and the taxpayers in the city of Las Vegas. My heartfelt thanks goes to everyone who works hard to submit their annual budgets every year and to those who also manage their fiscal resources wisely. Your cooperation is always appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at ext. 0305 to discuss any budget concerns or recommendations. My door is always open.

LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE RECOGNIZED BY UNLV

UNLV's **WILLIAM F. HARRAH COLLEGE OF HOTEL ADMINISTRATION** recently presented a plaque to **LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER TIMOTHY R. SZYMANSKI** in recognition of his ongoing participation in a disaster preparedness seminar for hotel administration majors.

The seminars have been given twice a year for the past five years. Each seminar consisted of a four-hour lecture on fire safety, disaster preparedness, history of disasters, how to make a disaster plan, bomb threat procedures and clandestine drug labs in hotel rooms. The following week a two-hour class was held at the fire training center where students received hands on training on the use of a fire extinguisher, fire hose, entering a smoke filled room and how to stop an activated fire sprinkler.

Nearly 1,000 students have completed the program since it started in 1998. The program is offered to students enrolled in the hotel and facility management program at UNLV.



Ken Teeters, Assistant Professor of Hotel Administration at UNLV, presents a plaque to PIO Tim Szymanski at a recent fire safety seminar.

EVERYDAY LIFE SAVERS FIRE PREVENTION'S UNSUNG HEROES

by David F. Klein, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

Dating back to the first fire crews extinguishing a fire, firefighters around the world have historically been the ultimate lifesavers and "heroes." This is a very accurate and correct statement; **firefighters are heroes!** Less well known though is that within any fire department's organization one will find another small group of individuals who do not get much fanfare, accolades or "hero" status for the work they do tirelessly day in and day out. These dedicated professionals are entrusted with saving property and protecting the lives of our citizens, visitors, police and fire and rescue personnel every day.

FIRE PREVENTION personnel work directly in support of suppression activities. They ensure that a structure or facility even in its early construction stages is protected. In the event of fire or emergency, they allow guests, occupants, construction crews and responding fire and emergency personnel to conduct business as needed. They can be assured that the fire protection or suppression systems are in place will operate to assist the fire fighting activities.

Through countless code enforcement inspections, hazardous materials inspections, hours upon hours of code research and development activities, hundreds of public education programs and activities, more lives are saved on a day-to-day basis than one could imagine.

AMERICA BURNING (in a study conducted by USFA) published findings 25 years ago reflecting almost these same comments. Though fire prevention is not glamorous, it was never meant to be. We don't have school groups visiting fire prevention offices and I can't think of the last time someone wanted to sit in my staff vehicle to look at a code book!

After completing and passing fire and safety compliance testing or inspections, there are no tangible results. Yet, if by passing the business owner may get to start operating or occupy the facility, but if the inspection fails in many cases the fire prevention requirements and inspections are viewed as an additional cost or burden that is being forced upon them with no value.

Fire Prevention Officers are 100% dedicated, knowing that a day may come when the work they all do will save the life or lives of their fellow fire department brothers or sisters, a citizen, or save the building that many businesses occupy providing income for a family in our community.

Just think of the most recent tragedy affecting all of us. In the **WORLD TRADE COMPLEX** almost 3,000 citizens, occupants, emergency response personnel and others died as a result of the fires and subsequent building collapse. It was estimated that approximately 50,000 people passed through the Trade Center every day conducting business and visiting. Just think of how many people evacuated both the towers and other surrounding facilities through code required emergency stairwells, had lighting from required emergency lighting and were directed to exit these facilities from emergency paging systems.

In closing, when the bells go off in the middle of the night for a fire in a commercial building or facility, rest assured, Fire Prevention has and is looking out for you and your crew.



LITTLE KNOWN PRESIDENTIAL FIRE REPORT IS RESCUED BY MEMBER OF LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE

Tim Szymanski, PIO
Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

President Harry S. Truman recognized there was a fire problem in the United States, so in 1947 he pulled together over 2,000 of the best minds in the country to identify ways to prevent unwanted fire.

After a three-day conference in Washington, D.C., The President's Conference on Fire Prevention was produced. And yet today, most fire service leaders do not know this special document exists or is it taught in fire science courses at community colleges across the country. The reason, it was forgotten.

But for the past two years, one member of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue discovered the report, in parts, and combined the report into a format which is now once again being distributed in publication, on the United States Fire Administration website, and soon to be on CD-ROM through the U.S. Fire Administration publication system.

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Fire Protection Engineer Azarang "Ozzie" Mirkhah was working on a class project at the National Fire Academy when he discovered the "lost documents." Mirkhah is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program of the National Fire Academy where selected fire service leaders work on special fire service projects at the academy.

When he discovered the documents, he found that the report was not combined, and what was even more amazing is that current fire service leaders were not aware that such a conference even took place.

President Truman was concerned about the fire problem in the United States, so on May 6-8, 1947, he gathered nearly 2,000 of the best minds to meet at the Departmental Auditorium on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Marine Corps Band lead the opening ceremony after which several committees were formed and broke into intense meetings. After the meetings, the 1947 report was complete.

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LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, NEW INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS AUGUST 2001 - SEPTEMBER 2002

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ☆ Realigned our Table of Organization and assigned new responsibilities with the Deputy Chiefs' rank.
- ☆ Opened Fire Station #10 on July 22, 2002.
- ☆ Successful groundbreakings for Fire Stations #43, #44, and #45. Initiated construction for Rescue Bay additions at Stations #2, #7, and #9.
- ☆ Completed a major Department of Justice Weapons of Mass Destruction exercise on September 19, 2002. The city of Las Vegas hosted this multi-jurisdictional exercise that included all local allied government agencies and all 10 regional hospitals.
- ☆ On March 20, 2002 the city of Las Vegas hosted a multi-jurisdictional exercise involving the US Centers for Disease Control Pharmaceutical Stockpile program. This exercise was a first of its kind (nationally) and involved flying the CDC pharmacy stockpile to McCarran Airport aboard a National Guard aircraft. This exercise was attended by numerous public safety officials from Nevada, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Washington, and Utah.
- ☆ On April 9 and 10, 2002 the city of Las Vegas hosted a two-day Department of Justice terrorism Threat and Risk Assessment course. This was also multi-jurisdictional and included numerous public safety agencies from northern Nevada.
- ☆ Appointment of staff to represent the city of Las Vegas on the US Department of Justice's Interagency Board for Equipment Standards and Inter operability.
- ☆ Appointment of staff to represent the city of Las Vegas and the International Association of Emergency Managers on the National League of Cities' Public Safety Committee.
- ☆ On March 21, 2002 the city of Las Vegas hosted a multi-jurisdictional biological terrorism preparedness tabletop exercise that included all local allied government agencies, all 10 regional hospitals, and the State Division of Emergency Management.
- ☆ Suppression development of response plans and procedures for special operations and incidents relating to homeland security (weapons of mass destruction).
- ☆ Appointment of Staff to Metro's community based Homeland Security Team.
- ☆ Staff received training on the Incident Management and Unified Command for Weapons of Mass Destruction from Texas A&M.
- ☆ Staff received training from the Department of Justice Risk Assessment course for the evaluation of vulnerability to terrorist attack.
- ☆ Completed 12 C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Training) programs certifying 260 participants in the community.
- ☆ A total of 75 emergency and support staff positions were approved in the FY2003 budget.
- ☆ Reduction of average response times for department (since FSI 2000) to an average in the very low six-minute range (at about 60%).
- ☆ Acquisition of the Swede Survival System flashover simulator, providing an increased level of safety in live fire training. Live fire training has increasingly been faulted for an unacceptably high degree of injuries and deaths.
- ☆ Approval of a \$178,571 Fire Prevention grant through the United States Fire Administration.
- ☆ Haz-mat dispatch procedures have been enhanced in order to utilize the full capability of the Fire Alarm Office CAD system. Work has continued with the Fire Alarm Office Response Plan Committee and received approval from the FAO Operations Committee for adoption. Implementation now pending FAO programming & training.
- ☆ All bomb technicians within the Bureau are currently certified as Bomb Technicians, a National requirement by the FBI in order for us to remain Accredited, which we are.
- ☆ Brought Plans review turnaround time under 10 days.
- ☆ Received a donated rail car from Occidental Chemical Corporation for training.
- ☆ Several LVFR companies received the Firehouse Magazine Unit Citation Award in 2001 for a rescue on Maryland Parkway.
- ☆ Fire Station 1 was recognized by Firehouse Magazine as the "Busiest Fire Station in the United States" for 2001.
- ☆ Completed Technical Rescue Team Training, put apparatus and personnel in service.
- ☆ Completed 2 Citizens Fire Academies with the graduation of 100 citizens.
- ☆ Taught 6 Hotel Life Safety Program seminars to UNLV.
- ☆ Taught four Media Relations classes at the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy.
- ☆ 43 Firefighters received their Firefighter II certificates.
- ☆ Reinstated Hazmat Committee and the Training Inner-Look Committee.
- ☆ Completed preliminary ISO Evaluation.
- ☆ Staff served as the Fire Tactics and Strategy technical expert for the State Fire Marshal's Office for the Aerotech Investigation (excess of 500 hours).
- ☆ Staff member was selected the City's Employee of the Year.
- ☆ Updated Las Vegas SOP's to reflect the city's current Safety policies. Reviewed and updated the station inspection SOP's and reinstated the monthly station inspections to comply with OSHA standards.
- ☆ Drafts made for Career Development, Basic Skills, and manuals.
- ☆ Staff member admitted to the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy.
- ☆ Additional staff member attending course three in the Executive Fire Officer program.
- ☆ Produced a second live TV special on disaster preparedness after the 9/11 incidents.
- ☆ Coordinated the 9/11 ceremony at City Hall in 2002.
- ☆ Staff member received the Firehouse Magazine Community Service Award in 2001.
- ☆ The First Annual Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Awards was held in February, 2002.
- ☆ Article by staff member was the cover story for the Spring 2002 issue of the Fire Engineering magazine, which is the international publication for the Society of Fire Protection Engineers.
- ☆ Staff member served on the USFA panel to develop a course for Performance Based Design.
- ☆ Staff member served on the FEMA panel to develop a course for multi-hazard buildings.
- ☆ Staff member completed the 1947 President's Conference on Fire Prevention Report.
- ☆ Addition of 4 new fire engines and 1 new Air Resource vehicle. Three additional units will be put in service in Nov. 2002.
- ☆ The department has also purchased a total of 39 replacement and 5 additional staff cars.

NEW INITIATIVES

- Rewrote our Mission and Vision statements as well as currently updating our Department's Strategic Plan.
- Management and Labor agreed and met in a workshop format in order to address how we could go about building a better relationship.

LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, NEW INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS AUGUST 2001 - SEPTEMBER 2002

- ❑ Implemented Roundtable discussion format with suppression crews—to give staff an opportunity to interact with E-Staff.
- ❑ Implemented information sharing meetings for supervisors—to share budget and major projects.
- ❑ Implemented bi-monthly meeting with union officials.
- ❑ Kicked off Service Link—a new computer data program which allows our suppression staff to refer people who may have a need such as lack of food in the household.
- ❑ Implemented an electronic storage and retrieval system for all department policies and procedures, and updated our review and revision schedule.
- ❑ Major change in response policy for fire signals to reduce amount of false alarms.
- ❑ Began Pilot Community Based Fire Protection program—to get crews more involved with the community.
- ❑ The Arson/Fire Investigations SOP's have changed the writing format and various forms for the Bureau so that their time is structured more efficiently.
- ❑ The Bomb Squad is planning to build a permanent Type I bunker for its inventory.
- ❑ Arson is currently looking at software that will track the crime of arson throughout our jurisdiction based on crime mapping data further creating a computer database of specific incidents for the Bureau.
- ❑ Arson is planning to meet with Architectural Services to develop blueprints that will build a permanent facility for the Bureau.
- ❑ Created an Engineer and Captain Preceptor Training Program.
- ❑ Currently proceeding with proposal to contract with Target Safety to enhance the training function while reducing out-of-service time.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- Fire Stations have hosted "Open Houses" which gives the public an opportunity to visit and see first hand the new equipment they allowed us to purchase though FSI 2000.
- Soon to host a press conference to announce Safe Place Project—purpose is to open up fire stations to any child or young person who feels threatened.
- Continue to be involved with United Way of Southern Nevada and MDA fundraising annual

initiatives.

- The Arson Bureau will continue and always endeavor to provide teaching and public relations awareness regarding explosives, arson, Bomb Incident Management for private companies and public safety organizations. Although not directly involved in open house meeting, we provide the community with awareness, education and instruction regarding their interaction with arson, explosives and hazardous device management.
- Other Community events include the following:
 - ✓ Community events—59
 - ✓ Big Red display and Parade—9
 - ✓ Fire Safety House public demo—63
 - ✓ Fire Safety House school demo—11
 - ✓ Fire Safety in health care facilities—5
 - ✓ Fire Safety in senior citizen facilities—9
 - ✓ Home Safety-clubs, apartment, & child care—13
 - ✓ Job Safety in work place—28
 - ✓ Mirage & Robots display—9
 - ✓ Sesame Street and Puppet show—17
 - ✓ Public Education & Fire extinguisher class—37
 - ✓ Fire Prevention Week—14
 - ✓ Station Tours—25
 - ✓ United Way online access
 - ✓ United Blood Services Chain of Life Blood Drives
 - ✓ United Blood Service Mask Project
 - ✓ March of Dimes
 - ✓ Walk for a Cure (breast Cancer)
 - ✓ 7 PAYBACK speeches to keep kids in school
 - ✓ 5 Town Hall meetings
 - ✓ Black Expo
 - ✓ Guam Liberation Celebration
 - ✓ Senior Safety Awareness Day—Uniform Display Luncheon at Palace Station
 - ✓ Kids to Kids book drive
 - ✓ Salvation Army food drive
 - ✓ Boots and Babes' Car Wash to benefit the Burn Foundation
 - ✓ Assist Citizen Clean-up
 - ✓ Bachelor Auction to benefit the Burn Foundation
 - ✓ BBQ to benefit UMC Burn Center at Giligan's Hideaway
 - ✓ Fund Raising event at Buca De Beppo to benefit under privileged children
 - ✓ Camp Cal—Adaptive Adult Program for

Physically/mentally challenged

- ✓ Light the Night Walk—9/29

TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ Currently proceeding with the purchase of the Pen Based EMS report writing system. Due to be in place by the end of the fiscal year.
- ◆ All MDT replacements will be completed by December, 2002.
- ◆ The CAD system has been finalized and is operational for the Fire Communications Center.
- ◆ Department pre-plan program to develop file server based Pre Plan data. Currently on line.
- ◆ Successfully transferred the ability to operate law enforcement computer programs from a stand alone and ancient system to a Windows based software environment on a secure on-line server with very little crossover costs.
- ◆ Implemented the Deccan CAD Analyst and Apparatus Deployment Analysis Module (dispatch data analytical software), for analysis of workload, response times and station location.
- ◆ Successfully completed the goal of operating as a paperless office using e-commerce to store files and folders for the Arson Bureau.
- ◆ Arson and Fire Investigations has an agreement with IT to develop the Bureau's own File-Net hard drive for the long term storage of reports and photographs, of which, are now grouped together under the same Incident number. File-Net for the Bureau will also serve as a chain of custody recording when anyone downloads or uploads records by recording who and when File-Net was used.
- ◆ Bomb Squad has submitted a \$140,000 proposal to the DOJ 2002 Grant for a Bomb Squad robot.

SUPPORT TO THE UNION

- ▲ Provided equipment support to IAFF Convention.
- ▲ Allowed more than 100 hours of Administrative leave in support of local members to attend Convention.
- ▲ Provided many hours of administrative leave to Honor Guard members to go into community and display their talent.
- ▲ Agreed to allow Union to display their logo on our apparatus.

CITY MANAGER ISSUES REPORT ON THE CITY'S FIRE INSPECTION PROCESS FOR HIGH HAZARD OCCUPANCIES

In light of the recently released report by the NEVADA STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE on fire inspection procedures in Clark County, CITY MANAGER DOUG SELBY issued the following City Manager Information Report, describing procedures used by LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE'S FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION for high hazard occupancies within the City of Las Vegas.

In calendar year 2001, the **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION** conducted 17,823 field inspections, re-inspections, partial inspections, attempted inspections, and field consultations. New construction inspections dominate a large percentage of the division's inspection activity with 4,872 new construction related inspections for the year. The division continues to maintain 100% **same day** new construction request action. The division conducted 2,615 business license inspections in 2001, maintaining a ten-day turn around time greater than 90% of the time.

Through the division's **INSPECTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (IMP)**, another 2,497 fire inspections were conducted. These annual inspections concentrate on hazardous occupancies. The division maintains a list of buildings considered hazardous. These buildings are classified "**hazardous**" because of the types of processes in the building, hazardous material storage, type of construction, lack of adequate fire protections systems in place, or a large number of occupants in the building. This list is distributed to fire suppression. The lists are provided to the fire captains in order to enhance their safety in the event of an actual fire. These buildings are usually further "**pre-planned**" by the fire crews through the department's "**Quick Action Plan**" program.

The least amount of inspection activity is generated from citizen complaints on fire and life safety issues. The complaints are followed-up within three working days, depending on the nature of the complaint and accounted for 473 inspections in 2001.

The city's fire inspectors are assigned to a specific area. This assignment process ensures familiarity, consistency, timely follow-up in correcting hazards or violations of the Fire Code, and good customer service. The inspectors develop a rapport with the property owners and managers and are thoroughly familiar with the buildings in their assigned area. The city has fire inspectors assigned to one of 18 specific geographical areas. In order to facilitate communication regarding hazards firefighters may respond to, these inspectors are also assigned to specific fire stations. Communication between Fire Prevention Inspectors and Fire Suppression crews is a high priority.

When violations or hazardous conditions are discovered, a "**notice to correct**" is issued on site to the person responsible for

the property. In cases where firefighter safety issues are involved, this information is provided to the fire suppression personnel. Correction notices can be immediate or give a specific time frame for compliance, usually 7 to 30 days depending on the situation. In the case of a severe or life threatening violation, the Inspector can issue an immediate "**stop order**." If violations are not corrected within the allotted time frame, criminal citations can and have been issued to the violator in accordance with the **CITY OF LAS VEGAS FIRE CODE ORDINANCE**.

The **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION** has recently increased the number of fire inspections through the use of scheduled overtime. These inspections focus on high-risk occupancies, as well as revenue generating permits and activities. The division recently conducted inspections after regular business hours on high occupancy businesses and businesses where complaints have been received regarding after business hours activities. Staff will continue to conduct after business hours fire inspections in these types of occupancies.

The division maintains an automated records keeping system that has been undergoing enhancements through the **HANSEN PROJECT**. Computer records on fire prevention inspection activities are maintained on all buildings in the city that require inspection according to the code. In the near future, all city records on buildings will be linked and available to those with a need. Currently, hard copy records and building files are being scanned and are easily retrievable through the city **FileNet** system.

By conducting regular inspections, issuing timely notices of violations and maintaining thorough records, **LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE'S** management practices help prevent unfortunate incidents and allow for rapid response in the event that a serious incident should occur.



Captain Dean Fletcher and Captain Rusty McAllister represented LVFR when a check for \$46,388.03 was presented to the UMC Board of Directors for the UMC Burn Unit. The proceeds were from the sales of the Nevada Professional Firefighter License Plate. A check of \$1,185 was also given to the Burn Unit on behalf of the Las Vegas Firefighters Benefit Association, proceeds from the July 4th Fireworks Show.

NEVADA RANKS 41st IN FIRE FATALITIES IN NFPA STUDY

by Ozzie Mirkhah

Take a look at the tables from the recently published **NFPA** study and you will also feel pride about finishing 41st. The tabulated statistics indicate that Nevada as a state was ranked 41st in deaths per million. The most impressive part though, is what was accomplished in the last two decades, since Nevada was ranked 1st more than twenty years ago, back in 1980.

The statistics show that back in 1980, the state of Nevada was ranked 1st and had 111 fire fatalities, with 138.8 deaths per million. Needless to say in this case, being first is

actually the worst, and nothing to be proud of. Three years ago, back in 1999 when the last data was collected and analyzed, the state of Nevada finished 41st with 15 fire fatalities and 8.3 deaths per million.

Yes, I know, the data covers a twenty year span; it is for the entire State and not specifically the **city of Las Vegas**; and the last analyzed data was from 1999, three years before the self-proclamation of the **"world class"** status; but as the protector of the largest urban population center in Nevada, we have earned the right to take pride in this major accomplishment. It is important to recognize that this accomplishment was achieved during the tremendous construction and population growth era that southern Nevada has experienced, which as you all know has overtaxed our limited resources.

As you know, contrary to the fishermen's story about the "ones that got away," **NFIRS**

and the fire statistics is all about the fires that plagues our communities, and not about the ones that did not take place and were prevented. That being the case, since there are no national statistics showing the importance of fire prevention by tabulating the statistics on the fires that did not happen, it is usually rather difficult and normally subject to interpretation of the existing fire data that one can actually develop an appreciation for what fire prevention does for a community. This time around though, the data presented is so straightforward, that it is rather difficult not to see the important role that fire prevention has played in accomplishing the 41st place finishing amongst the 50 states.

Let's face it, despite the aging of our older neighborhoods and the tremendous construction boom (probability of more fires) and population growth (probability of more fire fatalities) that could have increased the total fire

Continued on Page Sixteen

Reprinted from the NFPA Website

FIRE DEATHS IN U.S. HOMES DROP MORE THAN 9% IN 2001 MAJORITY OF FIRE FATALITIES STILL OCCUR WHERE WE FEEL SAFEST

Quincy, MA, September 27, 2002—Fire deaths in U.S. homes dropped 9.1% last year from the previous year, according to a report released today from the nonprofit NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). In all, 3,110 perished in home fires, the place we feel safest, and another 3,086 fire fatalities occurred elsewhere, for a total of 6,196 fire deaths. (Of these, 2,451 occurred due to fires started by the attacks on America on September 11.)

Nationwide, there was a home fire death every 170 minutes, compared with every 153 minutes for the previous year.

Since 1977, NFPA has collected data from U.S. fire departments to produce the yearly *Fire Loss* report, which cites fire data relating to deaths, injuries, locations, trends and analyses.

Overall, home fires have declined fairly steadily since 1978 and were down by nearly half in 2001 (48%). Only 1999 had a lower home fire death total (2,895) in the past quarter-century.

"We believe the decline in home fire deaths as evidenced from last year's data is attributed to increasing public safety education coupled with advances in fire-safety technology; these have made substantial progress in saving lives," said John R. Hall, Ph.D., NFPA's assistant vice president for fire analysis and research.

Other major findings from the report are as follows:

Number of fires: Every 18 seconds, a fire department responded to a fire somewhere in the U.S. in 2001. In all, there were 1,734,500 fires attended by public fire departments, a slight increase of 1.6% from the year before. Most of these fires were outside fires with very little loss involved, but 396,500 were home fires.

Injuries: Nationwide, there was a reported fire injury in the home every 34 minutes, compared with every 23 minutes in 2000. A total of 21,000 fire injuries were reported last year; 800 of these occurred in the September 11 attacks, and 15,575 occurred in structure fires in homes.

Property damage: In all, an estimated \$43,983,000,000 in direct property damage occurred as a result of fire. \$5,643,000,000 occurred from fires in homes, and \$3,231,000,000 occurred in other structure fires, exclusive of the events of 9/11.

Arson: An estimated 45,500 intentionally set structure fires occurred last year. Intentionally set fires resulted in \$34,453,000,000 in property loss; \$33,440,000,000 were due to the events of 9/11, and \$1,013,000,000 were from other set structure fires. There were 39,500 intentionally set vehicle fires, which caused \$219,000,000 in property damage.

Outside fires: There were 861,500 outside

fires in 2001. In particular last year, brush and grass fires decreased 9.0% to 414,000.

Events of September 11: Fatalities from all the events from September 11 are included in the report because the effects of fire led to the collapses and destruction.

The full report is available from NFPA's [One-Stop Data Shop Web site](#).

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. Developer of the *Building Construction and Safety Code*, *National Electrical Code®*, *Life Safety Code®*, and 300 other codes and standards, NFPA is also a partner in the development of the *Comprehensive Consensus Codes* (C3) set for the built environment. The NFPA's *Fire Protection Research Foundation* is the world's only independent charitable fire research institution. NFPA also produces educational curricula, including the *Risk Watch®* community-based injury prevention curriculum, the *Remembering When®* falls and fire prevention program for older adults, and the *Learn Not to Burn®* fire safety curriculum. NFPA headquarters is in Quincy, MA, USA.

LVFR FIRE PREVENTION RECEIVES MAJOR FEMA GRANT

A major grant in the amount of \$178,000 was awarded to Las Vegas Fire & Rescue from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant was provided to establish a new video and interactive computer program that promotes fire safety in the community. Public Information Officer Timothy R. Szymanski is project leader of the grant program.

The grant will provide two mediums to disseminate fire safety messages to the community: video and interactive computer programs. There were two ways this could be accomplished. One way was to hire outside companies to make the programs and then distribute them. The other way was to purchase the equipment and make the programs ourselves and then distribute them. The advantage of the second over the first is you can make several programs over an extended amount of time and update them when needed. By contracting them out as in the first method, the program would be final and any updating would require additional funding.

The grant is providing the funds necessary to purchase equipment to produce the videos and computer programs. New video equipment and editing computers have been purchased that will compliment equipment already being used by the PIO. This will enable the department to produce fire safety videos as needed and they can be changed easily and as often as needed. It is also planned that the videos will be dubbed in Spanish. Spanish fire safety videos are almost non-existent and are badly needed in the fire safety public education community.

The second phase is to provide an interactive computer program that will teach fire safety to children. This phase of the program has already begun. The department is looking in the possibility of making the interactive programs available on the city website and also on CD/DVD to be used by children at home on their own computers.

What will be put on the fast track is the following: A video, which can be used by firefighters at local events and schools. Approximately ten-minutes in length the video will have lots of scenes of fires and other emergencies and will briefly review what makes up our department and what our mission is. The video will be done both in English and Spanish. If you are doing a presentation at a school or other group, this video will be a valuable piece of equipment for you to use.

Other areas that will be addressed by the program will include the proper installation of smoke alarms, how to call in an emergency, how to escape a burning building and how to prevent fires.



One of the "victims" during
the WMD Drill.

THANK YOU to...

The Vestin Group that graciously donated over \$46,000.00 to the FIREFIGHTERS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION with a possibility of more to come. MICKEY PEDROL humbly accepted on behalf of the ASSOCIATION.



Pictured l to r Mickey Pedrol; Michael V. Shustek, Chief Executive Officer; Chief David Washington; Robert Forbuss, Businessman and Steve Schneider, Vice President.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE LVFBA,

We have some outstanding business owners assisting you and retirees through generous donations.

After the 9-11 incident we as professionals started receiving enormous public attention. Local business owners and citizens found a need to assist their own safety workers. (Local Police/Fire) We have received cookies, shows, dances, cards and letters, and all sizes of donations. I thought we should take note and send thanks to **all** of them but we have been overwhelmed to announce them all.

However, this donation was heartfelt without any reciprocation or efforts expected from us. For that reason I thought we should acknowledge it.

You may not know these names Mike Shustek, Steve Schneider, Donovan Jacobs, or Joe Namath (yes the retired quarterback) but they felt the need and had an opportunity to assist local police and fire personnel. They reached deep in their hearts and pockets and donated \$46,000.00+ dollars to your LVFBA. All of them work for or are associated with the Vestin Investment group.

Donovan was a San Diego officer that was injured in the line of duty and is now an attorney working for Vestin. Mike, Steve, and David Washington met in a leadership program where this idea came to be. Through the efforts of David these funds were secured for us.

I/we want to thank all of the above personnel for their generous heartfelt donation. We should all be proud to be a part of this community, association, department and team.

We thank you all that have assisted us throughout the year!!
Happy New Year and be safe!!!!

FRATEERNALLY, MICKEY R. PEDROL. PRESIDENT LVFBA

LVFR CLASS 2002-03 GRADUATES



Congratulations to the fifteen members of LVFR CLASS 2002-03, who graduated on Friday, September 27, 2002. They are the third class of recruit firefighters to graduate from the LVFR Academy this year.

The ceremony was held at 1:30 p.m. in the Las Vegas City Council Chambers.

The fifteen recruits started their training on July 22nd for the ten-

week academy and all are experienced firefighters and paramedics from other fire departments from across the USA.

MAYOR OSCAR B. GOODMAN and **COUNCILMAN MICHAEL MACK** attended the ceremony and congratulated the graduates, wishing them success in their careers with the city.

BEST WISHES to the following Graduates:

DARRELL GARVIN—5A on 10/1/2002
JOHN MARTINOLICH—3A ON 10/1/2002
WILLIAM DILLIN—2A on 10/1/2002
KRIS NIGHTINGALE—5A on 10/1/2002
JAYSON CALHOUN—3A on 10/1/2002
MICHAEL ARQUETTE—42A on 10/1/2002
DANIEL WOLFE—8B on 9/30/2002
DAVID MOLINAR—5B on 9/30/2002
KEVIN REMEDI—8B on 9/30/2002
ALFRED BELLUOMINI—10B on 9/30/2002
JAMES WHITE—2C on 9/29/2002
CHRISTOPHER RACINE—1C on 9/29/2002
JASON FOHS—10C on 9/29/2002
CHARLES VREELAND—2C on 9/29/2002
RANDY FARR—1C on 9/29/2002



THE CLASS OF 2002-03

LVFR 2001 ANNUAL AWARDS



Awards were presented on March 15 in City Council Chambers for the first annual Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will be held once each year to honor exceptional service by employees of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue. The following were recipients of awards:

Firefighter of the Year—Captain Daniel D. Allred

Paramedic of the Year—FF/PM Joseph Kitchen

Fire Prevention Employee of the Year—

Fire Inspector Charles F. Murphy

Communications Employee of the Year—

Office Spec. II Sharon Y. Ozuna

Civilian Employee of the Year—Mgt. Analyst II Louis Baker

Fire Shop Employee of the Year (tie): Foreman Kenneth D. Braker &

Mech. III Tony Molitor

Fire Explorer of the Year—Erik Phillips

Community Service of the Year—PIO Timothy R. Szymanski

Valor Award—FF/PM Roger D. Carsten & FF/PM Timothy Cates

Unit Citation Awards

E6, T6, R6, E3, E203, R3, T3, E5, R5, S1, R2, B4

The awards program will be coordinated by the public information officer and will consist of department employees who will meet at least once each month to review nominations and to plan the annual awards ceremony which will be held on the second Friday of each November. Those who wish to be a member of the LVFR Awards Committee should notify the public information officer.

IN MEMORIAM

FF / Paramedic
Kevin Sparks
11/12/63 - 4/26/02



Fire Electrician I
Joe Chavez
3/15/32 - 7/11/02



Fire Prevention Inspector
Mike Vitale
8/29/43 - 7/17/02

*Though they are no longer here with us,
we will not forget our beloved brothers.*



Five-year-old Arielle Cagina is seen with LVFR Dispatcher James Bassett after receiving a certificate from Fire Chief David Washington. Arielle called 9-1-1 after her mother suffered two seizures and was unable to call for help. The small girl called 9-1-1 and stayed on the phone with Bassett until crews from Station Six arrived on the scene. She was recognized for saving her mother's life.

Presidential Report...

Continued from Page Seven

What is amazing is it resembles the same problems the fire service is still trying to tackle almost 50 years later.

The report identified the most important issue was the "3-Es." The "3-Es" are Engineering, Enforcement and Education. Talk to any fire safety official today, and they will tell you that the 3-Es are still the most important issues of fire prevention.

The original participants believed that the report and its aftermath were sure to solve the fire protection problem in our country. For the most part, this very significant effort of more than 50 years ago has drawn little long-term action despite the fact that much of it remains true today.

Only one original copy of the President's report is known to exist and it is kept in the Learning Resource Center collection at the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Mirkhah redid the document into copy which is now available through the United States Fire Administration either through their website or through their publications department.

In a letter to Mirkhah from R. David Pulison, Administrator for the United States Fire Administration, he stated, "Because of your outstanding effort in all of the necessary steps, this significant chronicle exists now in its entirety. Its use as a reference continues to increase. We are extremely pleased that the complete report can now be shared with the world."

Pulison further stated, "For more than 2 years, your unwavering dedication, research, compiling, retyping and proofing has provided the fire service community with a vital fire prevention reference tool. We are grateful for your commitment and accomplishment."

The report can be found on the USFA's website at www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/47report.cfm.



Firefighters Memorial Park plaque.

LETTERS TO THE CHIEF



December 12, 2001

To Good People:

Thank you ALL so very, very much for your past, present, and future help and assistance. My neighbors, family and I appreciate it so much. I wish the best for all of your families, staff and yourselves this holiday season and in 2002. And, let us remember now more than ever, that we live in the best nation on Earth! Take care, and thank you, as always, for your time. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!**

Nick G. Tortorolo, Las Vegas, Nevada

• • •

January 10, 2002

To All Firefighters:

We wanted to sincerely thank everyone that was involved in making our children's Christmas wonderful. Our children, Ashleigh, Courtney and Eric enjoyed, and are still enjoying, all of the gifts they received from all of you. My husband and I cannot show how appreciative we are. There are no words strong or sincere enough.

This year we have made a pact to show our gratitude by helping the less fortunate in the Holiday Season and all year round and every year thereafter.

Thank you so very much again. We will never forget you. You all have wonderful hearts and don't ever change that. There needs to be more people like you in the world, it would make a much better place.

Thank you sincerely,

(Mr. & Mrs.) Eric & Shawna Livermore, Las Vegas, Nevada

• • •

January 10, 2002

To: Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

We have a yearly visit from Fire Inspector Donny Draper. I just wanted to comment on how nice it is to deal with a City or County employee who is so consistently pleasant and helpful. We deal with many City and County employees/officials at my office and it isn't always a pleasant experience! Keep up the good work!

Laura Groseth, Las Vegas Nevada

• • •

January 5, 2002

To: Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

I would like to personally thank all those involved in the Christmas basket distribution as Monsignor Shallow Apartments on December 24th.

At the same time I'd like to express my appreciation for all the great work you folks do all year long. God Bless.

Evelyn Bond, Monsignor Shallow Apartments

• • •

January 8, 2002

To: Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

I would like to thank you for the Christmas you gave me. It was very nice of you to think of us. God bless all of you.

Dorothy Abner, Monsignor Shallow Apartments

January 22, 2002

To: Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

Re: FF/P Scott Johnson, FF Carlos Gardea Incident #2010549

This letter is a recommendation and commendation for the above named paramedics who saved my life on January 20, 2002. I am a diabetic and did not eat enough breakfast for the medicine I took that morning. At 12:55 a.m. on the above date, I awoke after the police stopped my car and as the paramedics were placing glucose in my mouth to awaken me since my blood sugar had dropped to 45 during my morning shopping spree. They wanted to take me to the emergency room, but upon awakening I said that it was only because I didn't eat enough breakfast and I knew I would be all right after I had some juice or eaten lunch.

This was a very traumatic experience for me. It had never happened before, nor will it every happen again. These officers were very well versed on how to treat a diabetic and stayed with me until I was fully revived and my blood sugar was elevated to 65. I knew then that I would be all right.

It is reassuring to know that these paramedics had the knowledge, expertise and personality to handle a situation that could have been very disastrous, only it wasn't. I am writing this letter since we live in such a negative society and the superiors of these men ought to be enlightened on what their officers are really doing out there in the field. Again, I thank you and them for an excellent service.

Sincerely, Rose Marie Knapp-Gallagher, Las Vegas, Nevada

• • •

July 15, 2002

Dear Ms. Cooper:

Thank you for the 240+ wonderful books your department donated to the **Spread the Word: Kids to Kids** program. The books are perfect for our program and will go a long way in building our surplus supply for the fall distributions. Thank you for the extra effort you made in "spreading the word" about our program to all the Fire & Rescue employees. We hope **Kids to Kids** will continue to reap the fruits of your willingness to go the extra mile. You were extremely generous to us and we really appreciate all that you are trying to do for the children of Southern Nevada.

Our program continues to grow as we have no collected more than 83,000 books and have distributed over 76,000 to 8,800 at-risk students in the Clark County School District. We look forward to adding two new schools into our program in the upcoming school year. We have targeted Twin Lakes as our next partner in improving literacy in the state of Nevada. These students, along with the children at Rex Bell, Robert Taylor, Elaine Wynn, C.P. Squires, Paradise and Sunrise Acres Elementary will benefit from your generosity.

The books donated through Spread the Work: Kids to Kids are touching children's lives. Thank you for your decision to support our community and invest in our children...our future.

Warmly, LAURIE PORTER, PRESIDENT

SPREAD THE WORD: KIDS TO KIDS

P.S. Thank you for sending out the email. It was so thoughtful,

Continued on Page Sixteen

Nevada Ranks 41st...

Continued from Page Eleven

by Ozzie Mirkhah

fatalities, the numbers actually decreased from 111 to 15. The fact that we are not experiencing an increase in the number of devastating fires and, therefore, fatalities is indicative of what fire prevention has done in the past twenty years.

In addition to the gallant efforts of the fire suppression crews in providing for a safer community; development of stringent fire and life safety codes requiring all buildings higher than three stories to be provided with automatic fire sprinkler and fire alarm protection, enforcement of these codes through plans review and field inspections, and public education should also be credited for this accomplishment.

Here is my "two cents" for whatever it is worth. Since **NFPA** analyzes this data every ten years, here is a "quantifiable" goal:

"Let's strive to sink even further down, to the very last place, and finish 50th by the year 2010".

Letters to the Chief...

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expressive and effective. We greatly appreciate your concern.



November 6, 2002

Dear Chief Washington:

This day, November 5, 2002, was an opportunity for my future career. I had the chance to see what fighting fire is all about. Also I learned why and how operations are worked in the fire station. The tour of the entire station was exciting. I learned things that I wouldn't have learned unless I had the opportunity to experience it first hand. Running a fire station is all about teamwork and the system of checks and balances. Everyone was very helpful to me. I asked questions and all were answered.

Thank you for donating your time. This Latin Chamber of Commerce is providing us a chance to know what our future plans could be. At this time, as a young adult, I have an idea of what I want to do for college and my career. Thank you for this career day.

Sincerely, MIRANDA COSPER

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